

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Summary and Conclusion on Outbreak of Cattle Disease in East Germany	DATE DISTR.	21 October 1955
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1. According to available reports, the following facts are known about the outbreak of cattle disease in East Germany:

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All animals experimentally fed special binding twine were affected by the same condition characterized by the following symptoms: diarrhea, conjunctivitis, and watering of the eyes. Death occurred within two or three days.

After prohibition of the manufacture of special binding twine (dipped in paraffin and containing traces of arsenic), no further losses of cattle were observed. Cattle at farms not using the special binding twine were not affected by the condition.

On 31 May 1955, a decree was issued by the Chemical Division of the Ministry of Heavy Industry (RA/1500/Dr. Wtt/H) and signed by Selbmann that no noxious substances be used for the manufacture of binding twine since "such practice has led to illness among a great number of cattle." All manufacturers were advised to request a certificate of harmlessness for all materials used for the manufacture of binding twine.

a total of 150,000 animals were poisoned by the substance contained in the binding twine.

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2. Considering the reports on test feeding of healthy animals with binding twine as well as the ministerial decree, it may be assumed that toxic binding twine is to be held responsible for the losses in East German livestock.

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